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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AstroPower Introduces New Products

Larger solar cells reduce cost of solar power

Glasgow, Scotland - May 3, 2000 – AstroPower, Inc. (NASDAQ:APWR) today introduced a new line of 8 inch solar cells and power modules on the occasion of the 16th Annual European Photovoltaic Conference and Exhibition. The new solar cells, which are the largest and most powerful solar cells commercially available, lower the cost of solar electric power by capturing economies of scale in solar cell manufacturing, module assembly, and system installation.

The Company introduced two new 8" solar cell types. The AP-108 solar cell is a single crystal 8" round configuration, while the APx-208 is an 8" square APexTM product based on AstroPower's revolutionary Silicon-FilmTM wafer process. Both new product types carry a nominal rating of 4.2 watts, and are used to make 150 watt power modules. The AP-108 and APx-208 generate approximately twice the power of a typical 5" solar cell – currently the most widely utilized solar cell in the industry. Since many of the costs associated with the processing and handling of solar cells do not scale linearly with size, larger solar cells tend to be less

expensive per watt of generated power. Prior to the introduction of the Company's 8" solar cells, the industry's largest and most powerful solar cell was AstroPower's AP-106 6" product.

"We believe that these new products will further reinforce AstroPower's industry leadership position that AstroPower already holds as the supplier of the largest and most powerful solar cells on the market. High-power solar cells and modules are particularly competitive in large-scale arrays where larger, more powerful modules significantly reduce installation cost," said Peter Aschenbrenner, AstroPower's Senior Vice President for Marketing and Sales. "We see rapidly increasing demand for large-scale solar arrays in Europe and the USA, primarily for "green power" generation programs driven by deregulation and customer choice. AstroPower is already shipping production volumes of our new AP-108 products, and we are working with all of our key customers to develop products using our APx-208 APex™ solar cells, which we expect to be shipping in volume later this year."

"AstroPower is once again leading the solar electric power industry in a shift to larger, more cost-effective solar cell configurations," remarked Dr. Allen M. Barnett, President and CEO. "These new products embody two aspects of AstroPower's fundamental business strategy: First, we have consistently capitalized on the ability of our proprietary technology to produce

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the largest solar cells in the industry. We believe that this gives us a significant competitive cost advantage. Second, our culture of rapid innovation drives us to continuously strive for step-function cost/performance improvements beyond existing benchmarks, even when, as in this case, the state-of-the-art is defined by another AstroPower product."

AstroPower is the largest US-owned manufacturer of solar electric power products, and one of the world's fastest growing solar electric power companies. AstroPower develops, manufactures, markets, and sells solar cells, modules, panels, and systems for generating solar electric power. Solar electric power systems provide a clean, renewable source of electricity in both off-grid and on-grid applications. For more information, please visit our web site at www.astropower.com.

This press release contains forward-looking statements that are made pursuant to the Safe Harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, as described in the Company's registration statement and periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. As a result, there can be no assurance that the Company's future results will not be materially different from those projected. The projections contained herein speak only of the Company's expectations as of the date of this press release. The Company hereby expressly disclaims any obligation or undertaking to release publicly any updates or revisions to any such statements to reflect any change in the Company's expectations or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which such statement is based.

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